of Commitments *to* GATT that con. cessional sales through the PDS and other schemes for sales at subsidised prices with the objective of meeting basic food requirements as a social safety net are in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 4 of Annex 2 and the footnote to the Agreement. It is thus Iclear that there is no need for any modifications in the existing PDS in India.

Value and Weight of Imported Newsprint

3682. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the value and weight of Newsprint imported from foreign countries during the period 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): The quantity and value of newsprint imported jduring April-December, 1993 the latest period for which such data are available are given below:—

Quantity ('000 M.Tons)	Value Rs. Crores	US $ Million
221	318	10L (101)

Source t Foreign Trade Statistics of India, December, 1993, (DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Television warnings about Indian Tea in Russia

3683. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are aware of the television warnings to the consumer in Russia about the consumption of Indian tea;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the reasons for the Russian Government to warn the consumers taking Indian tea; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to counter the Russian campaign against Indian tea;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Tea Board's Office at Moscow reported that in a programme telecast on Moscow television channel (in Russian language) during the last week of September, 1993, a green tea packet labelled as 'Indian tea' was shown, followed by that appeared to be a spread out coarse material which looked like wood chips. There is no mention in the report of the Tea Board's Office at Moscow of any warning against the perils of consuming Indian tea in the said TV programme. Since the programme was in Russian language the meaning could not be deciphered by Director Tea Promotion, Moscow. However, according to Director Tea Promotion, Moscow it purported to be a display of inferior Indian tea. This programme has not been repeated and consequently it has not been possible to ascertain the exact nature and condition of the above-mentioned specific TV programme.

Director Tea Promotion, Moscow has reported that a lot of bad quality tea packets are entering into Russia from different sources. Such teas include Chinese, Indonesian, Viet-I aamese, Argentinean teas etc. and many of these teas are reportedly being labelled as 'Indian tea'. It has not been established that the teas shown on Russian television was the Indian tea.